



R & A TRUCKING COMPANY

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February 23, 2000

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Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street N.W.
Room 811

Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Attn: BNSF/CN Control Transaction, Finance Docket No. 33842

Dear Honorable Vernon A. Williams:

R & A Trucking Co. is very concerned about the potential negative impact another railroad merger will have on our rail service. Our inbound rail traffic is very time sensitive and any service problems will have an impact on our ability to serve our customers.

My Company has experienced the effects of the service disruptions caused by rail mergers over the past five years, including the merger of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe. Shippers in the U.S. and Canada are still feeling the effects of the most recent changes in the East. While improvements in service are taking place, this has been a long, expensive and resource consuming process for my Company. The railroads do not need further disruptions and distractions in providing service right now.

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Canadian National (BNSF/CN) merger proposal is excessive and we do not believe this type of rail system consolidation will benefit North America.

The BNSF/CN proposal will have an impact on the entire railroad industry by starting another round of mergers. At this time, please do not approve the BNSF/CN merger.

Sincerely;

Frank Cole
President
R & A Trucking Co.

FC/nd

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